THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Oil Palm, cashew and Banana Plantation

4722. SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total area under Oil Palm, Cashew and banana cultivation, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government of Kerala's claim for National Research Centre was not conceded by the Union Government in the case of banana and cashew inspite of the fact thzat Kerala is having large areas under these plantation; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE(SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The total area under Oil Palm, Cashew and Banana cultivation, State-wise is as under:

	Area in thousand hectares		
State	*Oil Palm*	*Cashew*	*Banana*
Andhra Pradesh	1.60	71.095	33.9
Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	1.0
Assam	-	-	35.4
Bihar	-	-	12.5
Gujarat	-	-	15.9
Karnataka	1.114	74.082	19.0
Kerala	3.70	155.391	61.2
Madhya Pradesh	-	-	16.4
Maharashtra	1.00	22.752	56.8
Manipur	-	-	3.1
Meghalaya	-	-	4.8
Mizoram	-	-	1.9
Orissa	-	59.983	22.3
Tamil Nadu	-	95.620	47.8

	Area in thousand hectares		
State	*Oil Palm*	*Cashew*	*Banana*
Tripura	-	1.126	3.5
West Bengal	-	6.798	-
Uttar Pradesh	-	-	1.1
Goa	-	44.639	-
Andaman and Nicobar	-	44.639	-
Island	1.59	-	1.4
Pondicherry	-	0.363	0.2
Lakshadweep	-	-	0.1

(b) and (c). The Site Selection Committee of the I.C.A.R. inspected the sites offered by the State Governments for the establishment of National Research Centre for banana. The Committee found that the site offered by the Government of Kerala was not suitable for the proposed National Research Centre as the land was undulated and without any assured source of water and unsuitable for banana growing.

In case of National Research Center for cashew the existing Cashew Research Centre set up under the Central Plantation Crop Research Institute (CPCRI) in Karnataka was upgraded as the National Research Centre for Cashew.

HPCL and LOC Welfare programmes for SCs/STs

4723. SHRI PIUS TIRKEY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) The details of programmes chalked out by the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. and Indian Oil Corporation separately for the welfare of SCs/STs on the occasion of centenary celebration of Baba Saheb Dr. B.R. Ambedkar; and

(b) the steps taken to implement the programmes?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARNAND): (a) and (b). In addition to the enjoying welfare measures for SC/ST undertaken by Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. and Indian Oil Corporation Ltd., the following programmes were also taken up in connection with the Centenary Celebrations of Dr.B.R. Ambedkar:

Hindustan Petroleum corporation Ltd.

(i) Donation of books of Dr. BABA SAHEB Ambedkar to schools and colleges.

(ii) Sponsored Bharat Ratna Dr.